

REMARKS

The presently-claimed invention is drawn to a method comprising coating paper or cardboard with a coating color, wherein the coating color comprises an agent for simultaneously adjusting the water retention of the coating color and its Brookfield viscosity, wherein the agent comprises a copolymer that is water-soluble in a neutral or alkaline medium and comprises various monomer units, as recited in the claims (Claims 11-13 and 18-20); and the paper or cardboard so coated (Claims 14-16).

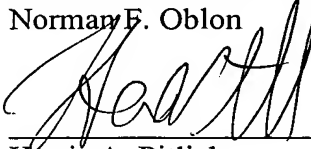
The rejection of Claims 11-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, U.S. 4,423,118 (Corbett et al), is respectfully traversed. While Corbett et al discloses a coating color, it is different from the agent recited herein. For example, Corbett et al neither discloses nor suggests presently-recited component C). In addition, Corbett et al neither discloses nor suggests that their coating color can simultaneously adjust both its water retention and its Brookfield viscosity.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



Harris A. Pitlick
Registration No. 38,779

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
NFO/HAP/cja